



April 27, 2023
Washington D.C., United States

International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators (IFIAR) holds 2023 Plenary Meeting in Washington D.C., US.

IFIAR's annual Plenary Meeting, resuming in-person for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, was held in Washington DC on April 25-27, 2023, with representatives from 44ⁱ IFIAR Member jurisdictions participating in discussions focusing on key developments and emerging trends in the audit industry.

"The annual Plenary provides IFIAR Members an important forum to learn from one another and build capabilities by sharing audit oversight practices, experiences and insights," said Duane DesParte, IFIAR Chair. "By engaging with the global network firms and other key external stakeholders, the Plenary also serves as a platform to reinforce the importance of sustainable high-quality auditing in the public interest."

* * *

"IFIAR's 2023 Plenary Meeting offered our Members the first opportunity for their leadership to meet in-person since emerging from the global pandemic" commented Takashi Nagaoka, newly elected IFIAR Chair. "The Plenary provided Members with rich discussions on various emerging developments which will be central to audit quality now and in the coming years. I would like to thank the United States PCAOB for hosting the event and Duane DesParte for his leadership and stewardship during his term as IFIAR Chair, continuing to advance IFIAR's mission of serving the public interest, including investors, by enhancing audit oversight globally."

Across a series of panel discussions, Members, Observers and other key stakeholder representatives addressed several key emerging developments and trends, including progression of audit quality, emerging requirements over sustainability reporting and assurance, and concerns over the attractiveness of the profession.

- The Plenary symposium kicked off with a keynote address exploring the 'attractiveness of the audit profession' and the impact that declining interest in pursuing careers in the profession might have on audit quality, now and in the future. This theme was further addressed in a breakout session, with a representative from the Global Public Policy Committee (the 'GPPC', a group comprising the six largest global audit firm networks), the CEO of the Center for Audit Quality, and two IFIAR Members (from Europe and Africa) joining the keynote speaker to offer additional perspectives.
- A second breakout session focused on developments in the reporting and assurance of sustainability and other ESG information. This breakout session was moderated by a representative from IFIAR's

newly formed Sustainability Assurance Task Force, with panelists from IFIAR Members based in Asia, Europe and Oceania offering insight into developments in their regions.

- A third breakout session offered Members an opportunity to discuss an emerging development in certain jurisdictions whereby an increasing number of public interest entity audits which have historically been conducted by larger audit firms are now being performed by smaller firms. Panelists from Asia, Europe and North America discussed audit quality and public interest considerations associated with this trend.
- In other Plenary sessions the IAASB Chair and IESBA Chair discussed their respective Boards' standard setting activities, including in relation to fraud and sustainability; and representatives of the external Advisory Group to IFIAR's Investor and Other Stakeholder Working Group discussed stakeholders' perceptions of factors driving audit failures.
- IFIAR Members were once again joined by the global CEOs of each of the GPPC networks, for wide-ranging discussions touching on (i) their network strategies, including the balancing of growth, risk management and public interest responsibilities, as well as talent recruitment and retention; (ii) their perspectives on audit quality, including regarding recent high-profile ethical issues; (iii) their networks' preparedness and strategies for providing assurance on non-financial statement sustainability and other ESG disclosures.
- A dinner keynote address focused on the importance to global capital markets of public trust in auditing, and the role of auditors and audit regulators in fostering such trust.

Working Groups and Task Forces

Members engaged with the leads of IFIAR's Working Groups (WGs) and Task Forces (TFs) to review accomplishments over the past year and significant planned initiatives for the year ahead. IFIAR's WGs and TFs are Member driven and serve a key role in IFIAR achieving its mission. IFIAR's five WGs and three TFs are focused on practical deliverables in the following areas: audit quality; inspections; enforcement; standard setting; investors and other stakeholders; use of technology; and sustainability assurance.

IFIAR Officer and Board Elections

The Plenary marked the end of Mr. Duane DesParte's term as IFIAR Chair. IFIAR expressed its appreciation to Duane for his commitment and leadership these past four years as an IFIAR Officer. Elections were held to select a new Chair and Vice Chair, with Mr. Takashi Nagaoka (JFSA/CPAAOB Japan) elected as IFIAR Chair and Mr. Kevin Prendergast (IAASA, Ireland) elected as IFIAR Vice Chair.

Four Members were re-elected as Board Members, with Brazil (CVM), Chinese Taipei (FSC), Greece (HAASOB), and Türkiye (CMB/POA) each returning to the IFIAR Board for a renewed term. Each of these members will serve a four-year term and join Australia (ASIC), Canada (CPAB), France (H3C), Germany (AOB), Ireland (IAASA), Japan



(JFSA/CPAIOB), the Netherlands (AFM), South Africa (IRBA), Singapore (ACRA), Switzerland (FAOA), the United Kingdom (FRC), and the United States (PCAOB) to form a full board of 16 Members.

About IFIAR

Established in 2006, the International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators (IFIAR) comprises independent audit regulators from 54 jurisdictions representing Africa, North America, South America, Asia, Oceania, and Europe. Our mission is to serve the public interest, including investors, by enhancing audit oversight globally. IFIAR provides a platform for dialogue and information-sharing regarding audit quality matters and regulatory practices around the world; and promotes collaboration in regulatory activity. IFIAR's official observer organizations are the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, the European Commission, the Financial Stability Board, the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, the International Organization of Securities Commissions, the Public Interest Oversight Board and the World Bank. For more information about IFIAR, visit www.ifiar.org.

¹ The Russian Member does not currently participate in IFIAR knowledge-sharing or meetings and therefore did not send any representatives to attend the 2023 Plenary meeting.